



INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY FORENSIC SERVICES AGENCY

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EVIDENCE SUBMISSION GUIDELINE #2

BLOOD SAMPLES FOR FORENSIC ALCOHOL ANALYSIS

In accordance with Motor Vehicle Laws 345, IC 9-11-4-6, the I-MCFSA has adopted uniform standards for withdrawal, handling and preservation of blood samples prior to analysis. The standards are outlined below:

- A. Blood samples obtained from persons involved in traffic accidents or traffic violations shall be collected, handled and preserved as required by Section 345, IC 9-11-4-6, of the Indiana Motor Vehicle Laws.

Blood samples should be collected by venipuncture from living individuals as soon as feasible after the alleged offense, and only by persons protected by Section 345, IC 9-11-4-6, of the Indiana Motor Vehicle Laws (physician, or person under the direction of a physician).

Alcohol or other volatile organic disinfectants **MUST NOT BE USED** to clean the skin where a specimen is to be collected. Only aqueous benzalkonium chloride ("Zephiran"), aqueous merthiolate, aqueous mercuric chloride or povidone-iodine ("Betadine") disinfectants are used to disinfect the skin before venipuncture.

Sterile, dry hypodermic needles and syringes or clean, dry vacuum-type containers with sterile needles must be used. No reusable equipment can be used. The blood sample drawn must be deposited into a clean, dry container such as a Vacutainer®. Gray top tubes are recommended for the collection of blood as they contain an anticoagulant (potassium oxalate) and a preservative (sodium fluoride).

The MINIMUM quantity for blood required to perform duplicate determinations by the laboratory and still provide sufficient quantity for referee analysis by the defendant is 5ml. (approximately two teaspoons). However, please try to fill the vacutainer tube completely, if possible.

Blood sample containers which the I-MCFSA Laboratory prefers for quality assurance and non-interference testing in order of most to least favorable are:

1. Gray stoppered evacuated tubes containing a preservative and anticoagulant (e.g. B-D 10ml Vacutainer, 25mg sodium fluoride and 20mg potassium oxalate)

2. Violet stoppered evacuated tubes containing an anticoagulant (e.g. B-D 10 ml vacutainer, EDTA)
3. Green stoppered evacuated tubes containing an anticoagulant (e.g. B-D 10ml Vacutainer, lithium salt of heparin)
4. Red stoppered evacuated additives (e.g. B-D 10ml vacutainer, no additive)

Note: Please do not let hospital personnel spin down or separate blood into plasma and red blood cells.

B. Maintenance of Identity and Integrity of the Sample

1. Label for tube or vial
 - a. A label for the blood vial or tube may be used and may contain the following information:
 - (1) Full name of subject
 - (2) Date blood drawn
 - (3) Initials of person drawing blood
 - (4) Initials of witnessing officer. The blood sample tube or vial should be sealed in a container with tape and initialed across the seal.
 - b. The blood sample container label may include at least the following information:
 - (1) Full name of subject.
 - (2) Submitting agency.
 - (3) Geographical location where blood sample was drawn (i.e. name and/or address of hospital, jail or other facility)
 - (4) Name of person drawing blood sample
 - (5) Date blood sample drawn
 - (6) Time blood sample drawn
 - (7) Signature of witnessing officer
 - (8) A form for establishing the chain of possession for all persons handling the evidence (It is recommended that the officer collecting the blood sample document the chain of possession for all persons handling the evidence.)
 - c. Other information such as agency or laboratory number, offense charged, anatomical location from which blood sample was drawn, or any special instructions may be added.
 - d. The blood sample tube or vial should be sealed in a container with tape and initialed across the seal.

2. Fill out an I-MCFSA Request for Examination form completely. Submit the request with the blood sample container to the IMPD property room.

C. Procedure for Obtaining Blood Samples

1. The requesting officer should witness the withdrawal of the sample. When the officer witnesses the actual withdrawal of the blood, it may preclude the person drawing the blood from appearing as a witness at the time of the trial.
2. The person drawing the blood (e.g., nurse, doctor, paramedic) may fill out and initial a label and affix it firmly to the tube or vial. The sample should then be given to the officer who, in turn, may initial the label and place the sample in the prescribed envelope or other container. The officer should immediately complete the required information on the envelope or other container label and seal container securely.
3. Appropriate steps to insure integrity of sample shall be taken:
 - a. Once the envelope or other container is sealed, it must not be opened except for analysis in the laboratory.
 - b. Each person having possession of the sealed sample should sign his name in the space provided for recording the "chain of possession."

D. Drug Analysis Specimens:

All questions should be directed to the Indiana State Department of Toxicology
(317) 274-7825

Blood specimens collected for drug analysis should be sent or delivered to the Indiana State Department of Toxicology directly at the following address:

Forensic Toxicology Laboratory
Indiana State Department of Toxicology
550 West Sixteenth Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Drop offs can be made at the DOCK area.

For further information you may wish to consult with the I-MCFSA Laboratory. The laboratory number is: 317-327-3670.

Evidence Submission Guideline #2 adapted from Indiana State Police Laboratory Physical Evidence Bulletins.